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PRESS RELEASE

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District Man Convicted of Assault With Intent to Kill In Shootings of Ex-Girlfriend, Another Man

WASHINGTON - Donte Evans, 26, has been convicted by a jury of assault with intent to kill and other charges stemming from an April 2009 attack in which he shot his ex-girlfriend and another man, causing permanent injuries, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

The jury returned the verdicts on December 13, 2010, following a trial in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. Evans, of the District of Columbia, also was convicted of aggravated assault while armed, felony threats and related firearms offenses. He is to be sentenced on March 18, 2011 by the Honorable Judge Lynn Leibovitz. Under the voluntary sentencing guidelines, the defendant is facing a minimum term of imprisonment of 25 years.

According to the trial testimony, Evans and the female victim, Nichelle Rogers, were involved in a romantic relationship for approximately two years and have one child in common. During their relationship, there was a substantial history of unreported domestic violence, and Evans threatened to kill her if she was ever with another man. The relationship ended in March 2008, and during the spring of 2009, Ms. Rogers began an intimate relationship with a friend, Steven Williams, an officer with the D.C. Department of Corrections. A few days prior to the shooting, the defendant encountered Ms. Rogers and Mr. Williams together, and he demanded to know what was going on between them.

On the early morning of April 29, 2009, Evans went to Ms. Rogers' apartment in the 1400 block of Cedar Street SE, armed with a loaded .45 caliber gun. He sat on the steps outside her apartment door and waited. When Mr. Williams opened the front door to head to work, Evans jumped up, pointed the gun in his face, and forced his way into the apartment.

Evans then ordered Mr. Williams to back up and threatened to kill him and Ms. Rogers. Mr. Williams quickly fled into the bathroom and locked the door. Evans then pointed the gun at Ms. Rogers and demanded that she tell Mr. Williams to come out before he started shooting.

When she refused, Evans kicked the bathroom door open in order to get to Mr. Williams.

Mr. Williams heard the argument, and he tried to get out of the bathroom by pushing a screen out of the window. He was in the process of sliding his body out when the defendant entered the bathroom and immediately opened fire on him.

A 911 call believed to have been made by Ms. Rogers' five-year-old son captured the sound of six gunshots as Evans fired at Mr. Williams. As Mr. Williams fell to the ground two stories below, his leg was broken as a result of one of the bullets shattering his femur bone, and he was unable to move or run away. Evans then chased after Ms. Rogers, who had fled from the apartment. He spun her around and demanded to know if she was sleeping with Mr. Williams.

When Ms. Rogers pleaded that she had to live for the sake of her children, the defendant shot her in the stomach and left her to die on the street.

Evans then ran to the back of the building where Mr. Williams had fallen, and continued to shoot him a few more times in the body until running out of bullets. He then pistol-whipped him in the head three to four times before Mr. Williams was knocked unconscious.

Ms. Rogers sustained one gunshot wound to the abdomen. The bullet fragmented and struck her large intestine, liver, and a portion of her spine, leaving her with permanent nerve damage in her leg. Mr. Williams sustained seven gunshot wounds to his legs, hip, groin, and wrist. He has a rod permanently placed in his thigh and doctors were unable to remove one of the bullets from his leg.

In announcing the verdict, U.S. Attorney Ronald Machen expressed his appreciation to the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD). He also commended the work of Legal Assistants Etta Ford and Nicole Lee, Paralegal Specialist Donhue Griffith and Tiffany Jones, Victim Advocates Meshall Thomas and Veronica Vaughan, members of the Litigation Service Unit, Melissa Matthews and Nelson Rhone from CIU, and Assistant U.S. Attorneys Karen Rich, who conducted the grand jury investigation, and Lindsay Suttner and Angela Turmel, who prosecuted the case at trial.

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